

# KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

## MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

3:00-6:00 P.M.

*PRESTON COMMUNITY CENTER*

### MEETING AGENDA

<b>3:00</b>	<b>Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and Introductions</li><li>• Approval of Agenda</li><li>• Approval of Minutes (July)</li></ul>	Meredith Molli, Chair
<b>3:05</b>	<b>Old Business - Updates</b> (approx. 3 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commission Details</li><li>• KC Ag Program</li><li>• Land Conservation Initiative</li><li>• Local Food Initiative</li><li>• King Conservation District</li><li>• Farm Bureau</li><li>• Farm, Fish Flood</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Patrice Barrentine</li><li>• Richard Martin</li><li>• Leann Krainick</li><li>• Mike Lufkin</li><li>• Josh Monaghan</li><li>• Rosella Mosby</li><li>• Meredith Molli, Richard Martin, Bruce Elliott, Nayab Khan, Patrice Barrentine, Eric Beach, Melissa Borsting</li></ul>
<b>3:35</b>	<b>Public Comment</b> related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Meredith Molli
<b>3:40</b>	<b>Sno Valley Tilth's Current Work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation</li><li>• Q&amp;A</li></ul>	Jill Farrant, Executive Director, SnoValley Tilth
<b>4:10</b>	<b>Seattle Farmers Markets (Ballard, Wallingford, Madrona)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation</li><li>• Q&amp;A</li></ul>	Doug Farr, Executive Director, Seattle Farmers Market Association
<b>4:40</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>5:00</b>	<b>Farmland Lease Market Rates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview</li><li>• Getting Your Help and Feedback</li></ul>	Bee Cha, King County Ag Program Farm Manager and Immigrant Farming Coordinator
<b>5:10</b>	<b>Immigrant Farming Report Part 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Summary</li><li>• 2 Page Program Summary</li><li>• Full Report</li><li>• Commission Feedback</li><li>• Committee Formation</li></ul>	Richard Martin, Bee Cha
<b>5:30</b>	<b>Beefing Up Infrastructure Project Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WA Meat Summit</li><li>• Current workplan</li></ul>	Patrice Barrentine, Leann Krainick, Darron Marzolf
<b>5:50</b>	<b>General Public Comment</b> <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Meredith Molli
<b>5:55</b>	<b>Concerns of Commissioners</b>	Meredith Molli
<b>6:00</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	Meredith Molli

**Next Meeting : October 10, 3-6pm, Preston Community Center, Preston**



**King County**  
**Water and Land Resources Division**  
 Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
 King Street Center  
 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600  
 Seattle, WA 98104-3855  
**206-477-4800** Fax 206-296-0192  
 TTY Relay: 711

**King County Agriculture Commission**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**  
**Preston Community Center, Preston**

Commissioners Present					
Meredith Molli, Chair	N	Year Eng	Y	Darron Marzolf	Y
Leigh Newman-Bell, Vice-Chair	Y	Lily Gottlieb-McHale	N	Rosella Mosby	Y
Roger Calhoun	N	Nayab Khan	Y	Paul Pink	Y
Sarah Collier	Y	Leann Krainick	Y	Kevin Scott-Vanderberge	Y
Ex Officio Members Present					
Fereshteh Dehkordi, DLS	Y	Josh Monaghan, KCD	Y	Kevin Wright, WSU	Y
County Staff/Representatives Present					
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP	Maya DeGasperi, DNRP (intern)		Megan Moore, DNRP		
Bob Burns, DNRP	Hugo Garcia, DLS		Ted Sullivan, DNRP		
Bee Cha, DNRP	Mike Lufkin, DNRP		Christie True, DNRP		
David Daw, DLS	Richard Martin, DNRP				
Guests Present					
Anders and John Bitney, farmers	Deloa Dalby, Savor Snoqualmie Valley		Madeline VanLierop, Pierce County		
Bea Covington, KCD	Brandy Reed, KCD		Gwen Vernon, KCD		

**Action Summary**

- **Actions: Approval of Agenda and May 2019 Meeting Minutes**
- **County, Commission, and Organization Updates**
- **Presentation: King Conservation District (KCD) 2020 Workplan - Agriculture Portion**
- **Presentation: King County Parks Levy/Land Conservation Initiative (LCI)**
- **Presentation: KC Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)/LCI**
- **Updates: KC Immigrant Farming Report; Beefing Up Infrastructure Project**

**Meeting called to order by Leigh Newman-Bell at 3:06 pm**

**Approval of Meeting Agenda - ACTION**

Leann Krainick motioned to accept today's agenda as written. Sarah Collier seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (May 9) - ACTION**

Sarah Collier motioned to accept the May 9, 2019 meeting minutes as written. Kevin Scott-Vanderberge seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business – Updates**

- **Commission Details (Patrice Barrentine):**
  - Meredith Molli read the Commission's winery code amendment letter at King County Council (KCC) June 11. Many public comments were made on the amendment, but KCC took no action. KCC Chair Rod Dembowski also thanked Ms. Molli for her service on the Commission.
  - Bruce Elliott and Amy Holmes have resigned from the Commission. There are now six seats to fill by next year; three must be farmers. Anyone with leads on candidates should inform the selection committee, as applications will be reviewed in September.

- Interest was solicited for new selection committee members, in addition to its two current members (Leann Krainick and Leigh Newman-Bell). Sarah Collier, Josh Monaghan, and Kevin Scott-Vanderberge volunteered.
- Mr. Scott-Vanderberge reported that today the marketing committee heard from Deloa Dalby, of the organization Savor Snoqualmie Valley. SSV’s goal is to cross-connect local agriculture, recreation, and other community activities. Ms. Dalby proposes to spread SSV’s work to the Sammamish Valley, and seeks Commission support in this. Mr. Scott-Vanderberge said the committee will meet again to discuss this and decide how to proceed.
- **King County Agriculture Program (Richard Martin):** National NRCS has, per a letter to the Snoqualmie WID and DNRP director Christie True, directed their Washington state office to make progress to solve drainage issues for local farmers caused by NRCS tree plantings in the Pearson Eddy area. NRCS will consider funding requests to resolve the issues. They are willing to hire a consultant to review drainage improvement plans, and provide a management plan for a critical water control structure. The County and other local stakeholders will push NRCS to fund 100% of necessary actions.
- **Land Conservation Initiative (Leann Krainick):** This was passed due to the LCI presentations later this meeting.
- **Local Food Initiative (Mike Lufkin):**
  - The 2018 LFI report is available online. Anyone interested in subscribing to the monthly newsletter should contact Mr. Lufkin or Patrice Barrentine.
  - Three grant proposal updates:
    - Fresh Bucks: The program’s federal funding through the FINI grant ends in 2019. Many organizations have lobbied the state legislature for \$2.5 million to start a statewide Fresh Bucks program. The state health department and statewide farmers’ markets have also submitted a USDA grant proposal to support redemption dollars.
    - Local Institutional Food Team: An application has been submitted for a local food program promotion grant, to hire a coordinator for Kent, Seattle, and Highline school districts, to connect them to producers.
    - Working Farmland Partnership: Thanks to KCD, this program is funded for two years. PCC Farmland Trust has also submitted a grant to KCD, hoping to continue the program.
- **King Conservation District (Josh Monaghan):** This was passed due to the KCD presentation later this meeting.
- **Farm Bureau (Rosella Mosby):** Last night Mosby Farms hosted about 45 people to review some of the 2019 state legislative season’s agriculture bills. Ms. Mosby believed the discussions were successful.
- **Farm Fish Flood 2.0 (Richard Martin, Josh Monaghan):**
  - August’s Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) meeting has been cancelled. The next IOC meeting will be an all-day event October 24 at Carnation Farms.
  - Notices for the FFF website will be sent out soon.
  - Mr. Monaghan offered to brief the Commission on the farm caucus’s efforts to bring all its members “up to speed” on a history of FFF.
  - The caucuses have each developed “Measures of Success” to track progress, to be posted on the FFF website.

### Public Comment (Related to Specific Agenda Item)

There was no public comment during this period.

### KCD 2020 Workplan, Agriculture Portion – Bea Covington & Josh Monaghan, KCD

KCD is developing their 2020-2024 workplan to submit for KCC approval. The current workplan focuses on farms, water/habitat, forestry, and member jurisdiction grants. The current tax rate structure, capped by statute at \$10 per parcel, generates \$6.1 million annually for KCD. In 2015, KCD assessed their work program and rate structure and determined that while goals were being met or exceeded, more resources are needed than expected. KCD has, in short term, secured grants and single-time resources to fill funding gaps. Now, the statute has been amended to cap the rate structure at \$15 per parcel. The hope is that with this increase, more of KCD’s working budget can be shifted onto this rather than less-stable funding sources.

The workplan development process takes 18 months, and began in 2018. The 2015 assessment determined that most stakeholders want KCD to continue the work they’ve been doing, which requires more than the current \$10 rate structure. KCD will hold two public hearings this month to gather feedback on the proposal, after which a final version is submitted to KCC by August 1. If this does not occur, KCD “sunsets” on December 31 of this year.

KCD’s important agricultural work was discussed, and their continued efforts would focus on the following areas:

- Continuation of the regional food program, including:
  - Institutional demand for local products;
  - Farmland access;

- Helping farmers scale their growth; and
- Infrastructure support.
- Agriculture drainage: landowner engagement and coordination
- Supporting habitat restoration programs, in collaboration with ADAP
- Continued support for:
  - Community agriculture, focusing on underserved communities; and
  - Farmland conservation planning.
- Landowner cost share

There is insufficient political support for the current proposal's \$10 million cost. But there is room to discuss what programs are desired by stakeholders, after which a final rate structure will be calculated. A reduced proposal is part of the public hearing process, but this may not be what KCD's board chooses to send to KCC. KCC will also hold its own hearing this fall, ahead of their final decision. Feedback may be submitted to KCD at their two public hearings, at Green River College and Phinney Ridge Meeting Center, or through their website's comment portal. All comments will be read into public record.

DNRP Director Christie True said the County views KCD as an important partner in their work. She noted work is ongoing to ensure KCD's proposal matches up with the budget, which is difficult due to the time constraint of this needing to be voted on with next year's property tax bill. Concerns have also been voiced about KCD's Board of Supervisors election; KCD is working with King County Elections to ensure this process goes smoothly.

Several questions and comments addressed the following points:

- An interim proposal is available to review on KCD's website; this may not be the final version sent to KCC.
- KCD will work with the County to firm up budget numbers for the agriculture areas of the proposal for Commission review.
- No one wants to trim anything from the current proposal, so its budget remains high.
- KCD's supervisory board elections, not their proposed workplan and budget, are voted on by public ballot.

## **KC Parks Levy & Land Conservation Initiative – Bob Burns, DNRP Deputy Director**

### **A) Parks Levy**

Mr. Burns addressed the Commission on King County's proposed 2020-2025 Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Levy, to be on the August 6 voter ballot. This would be the fourth incarnation of the levy; the first was in 2004. The current 2014 levy developed four main goals: maintain existing parks/trails; increase access to them; develop a regional trail network; and continue to protect/conservate open space. The new levy would keep this current system, but keep pace with the region's growth.

The new levy would generate \$810 million of revenue in six years, from a property tax rate increase of 18.32 cents per \$1,000 in assessed property value. For the average homeowner, Mr. Burns said, this amounts to a less than 2% increase in property tax. 98% of revenue would be split among the four goals established in the prior levy, with the remaining 2% to cover administrative costs. He noted that of specific agricultural interest would be \$100,000 in funding dedicated to 4H programs.

### **B) Land Conservation Initiative**

The second part of Mr. Burns' presentation focused on the County's Land Conservation Initiative (LCI). The main goals of the LCI are to ensure green space access for all County residents, and protect remaining high conservation value lands in the County within one generation. A major impetus for this timeframe is that a longer wait may result in fewer lands being available to protect, as well as those lands becoming more costly. The current gap between available County funding sources and what is needed to achieve LCI goals is estimated at \$893 million. Existing fund sources include the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT), Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), Flood Control District (FCD)/FEMA, Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), private philanthropy, and others.

60,000+ acres have been targeted for conservation in six major land categories: farmlands, forests, rivers, natural areas, trails, and urban green space. Mr. Burns said there are a high number of areas in south King County that have no green space access within a 10-minute walk, and lack of such access has been tied to poorer public health in these areas. He estimated about 500,000 County residents could fall under this description.

Mr. Burns said of total lands targeted by the LCI, under 15,000 acres would be purchased in-fee, and largely be for uses such as public recreation or flood protection. 46,000 acres would be acquired by easement; this would include farms and forests. Nearly 10,000 acres of targeted land are designated as primarily agricultural, valued at \$130 million, and would all be acquired by easement. An additional 14,000 acres with agricultural potential, valued at

\$190 million, would be acquired largely by easement (88%), with the remaining 12% (under 1,800 acres) in-fee. Mr. Burns said any future acquisitions of easements and fee title would be examined under a Farm, Fish, Flood “filter” to ensure that any concerns for various resources and stakeholders, including farmers, are addressed.

An LCI advisory group was established in 2018 to deliver a report and recommendations to KCC, who began implementing them immediately. Recommendations included:

- Legislation to increase ability to bond against existing conservation futures revenue, which enables the County to pull capital forward and accelerate land acquisition.
- Eliminating a requirement for 50% matched funds if an acquisition meets certain social equity qualifiers.
- Establishing an “Open Space Equity” cabinet, made of representatives of 12 organizations/communities in King County. In a February 2019 report to KCC and the Executive, this cabinet advised updating County code to be more socially equitable.

Leann Krainick added that while it was difficult to serve as the only farm representative on the LCI advisory group, she feels good about the LCI. She said the Parks levy ties into agriculture in that healthier people want to learn more about eating healthy, and thus will want to learn more about farming.

**-- BREAK --**

### **Farmland Preservation Program & Land Conservation Initiative – Ted Sullivan, DNRP**

Mr. Sullivan spoke on how the LCI ties into programs such as FPP/CFT. An initiative to provide farmland in south King County to immigrant farmers is planned to utilize \$2 million in “match-free” funds for social equity projects through the LCI. South King County is home to many immigrant communities who have trouble finding good farmland and technical assistance. The \$2 million would go towards acquiring a 90-acre property with 70 acres of farmable land in the Lower Green APD. This site would have many farmers, with an outside organization managing it and the County assisting as needed.

He turned his focus to this year’s CFT application process. He noted that no FPP farms utilize Parks levy funds, only CFT funds. This year, FPP received three times the usual amount of CFT grants and funds, a total of \$10 million (\$4 million of this being “matched” funds). If successful, these funds will protect 1,044 more acres of farmland. In 40 years, the program has preserved about 15,000 acres of farmland.

### **Immigrant Farming Report Executive Summary – Richard Martin, DNRP**

Mr. Martin said there is a large immigrant segment of the County’s population interested in farming, but lacking access to necessary services to do so. The County began reaching out to African and Southeast Asian communities last summer; Hispanic and other communities will be addressed in the second phase of this process. Mr. Martin said it is critical to know the County is not starting a new process of working with immigrant farmers, but adding onto one. The hope is, long-term, to build a foundation for a strong farming community.

There are a number of major issues to be addressed with these immigrant communities, including: land access, language and cultural barriers, long-term land management, and investing in farm education. Partners such as WSU and KCD will be critical to these efforts.

Bee Cha, the County’s immigrant farmer outreach coordinator, worked with the Commission to develop a survey to reach out to immigrant communities. Feedback was assessed and initial recommendations were made for how the County and partners can proceed. The draft report is in its final review stages and should be finalized next week. The recommendations will be reviewed by the Commission and other partners to prioritize. Mr. Martin encouraged the Commission to review the report in detail, emphasizing it should be viewed as a starting point, not an end one.

Questions and comments addressed the following points:

- Work on some recommendations will begin now. Significant progress is sought in 2-3 years.
- The excitement in local immigrant communities over this project adds pressure for the County to deliver on it.
- Phase 2 will begin in the next year, as the County develops partnerships with other immigrant communities.
- The need to collaborate with other public social services/support entities was stressed.
- Clear measures of success should be defined for these farmers.
- There may be need to address a perceived hurdle of the many regulatory issues faced by farmers.

### **Beefing Up Infrastructure Project Update – Patrice Barrentine, Leann Krainick, Darron Marzolf**

The BUI project began in 2016, from growing desires to make connections between local USDA meat shops needing customers, and farmers needing local USDA-certified meat processing. The goal is to have an operational USDA-

inspected mobile processing unit in King County, so local farmers do not have to transport animals longer distances for slaughter. The unit will be located on an 80-acre site at Carnation Farms and operated by Darron Marzolf, who just opened up his butcher shop at the site. The unit is expected to be USDA-inspected and operational by September.

Several questions and comments addressed the following points:

- Livestock farmers will bring their animals to the site, with each slaughter attended by a USDA inspector.
- The operation will start with a small refrigerated trailer, as larger cold units are hard to transport. A trailer about 12 feet long (able to be pulled by a pickup truck) is desired, with a generator.
- This site will have a custom, but not USDA-certified, meat shop.
- The site will be the only hog-scalding facility in Washington state.
- The site will support slaughter for goat, pork, lamb, and beef.
- A mobile unit is being pursued vs. a brick-and-mortar facility due to fewer regulatory requirements.

### **General Public Comment**

There was no public comment during this period.

### **Concerns of Commissioners**

- **Leann Krainick** reminded all that the King County Fair runs this next Thursday through Sunday in Enumclaw, and will include 4H and a junior livestock show.

***Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm***

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### **Next Meeting**

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 6:00 pm, Preston Community Center, Preston